

CABINET

DATE	8 th March 2023
REPORT OF	Councillor Philip Jackson, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom, Director of Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Our Green Future Annual Report
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	03/23/02

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

This report provides an annual update on the following three strategic plans: -

- NELC Waste Management Strategy
- NELC Carbon Roadmap
- NELC Natural Asset Plan

The Waste Management Strategy supports the Council's outcomes for Sustainable Communities promoting and encouraging a recycling culture, in line with the circular economy model. It also contributes to its priorities of Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities, by ensuring we have a robust Waste Management Strategy and a fit for purpose, cost effective and efficient waste collection service to all wards in the borough that aligns with central government initiatives.

The Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan support the council's outcomes for Investing in Our Future and Economic Recovery and Growth, by ensuring that our residents benefit from a green economy and a high-quality environment; enjoy good health and wellbeing and live in a safe environment, where they can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report sets out the council's aspirations and progress in relation to the following three strategies:

- North East Lincolnshire Council's Waste Management Strategy (2020)
- North East Lincolnshire Council's Carbon Roadmap (2021)
- North East Lincolnshire Council's Natural Assets Plan (2021)

Since setting out our ambition in 2020 to reduce the environmental impact caused by our household waste, the authority has undertaken a full review of our waste collection service. This has resulted in an improvement in recycling rates, reduction in miles travelled for disposal and a reduction in waste sent to landfill. Additional plans are in place to deliver further improvements to progress towards government targets by 2035.

In 2022, an Environment Board was set up to monitor our progress to carbon neutrality on a quarterly basis against the Carbon Roadmap. Significant progress has been achieved in relation to carbon reduction, with an estimated decrease of 2,855 (tCO₂e) in 3 years saving, from our 2019 baseline. This estimate is based on the successful completion of decarbonisation targets outlined in the progress table of Appendix 2, all of which were scheduled as part of our original Carbon Roadmap.

Since the implementation of our Carbon Roadmap, it has become clear that there is a possibility for us to accelerate progress to achieve carbon net zero. Our new target of becoming carbon net zero by 2030 is an ambitious one, but one that we assess as achievable through innovative approaches and carbon offsetting measures that should allow for us to achieve a reduction of net carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from the 2022 figure of 3,656 (tCO₂e) to 0 (tCO₂e) by 2030: in 7 years' time as of writing this report.

By accelerating our plans and bringing forward our net zero carbon emissions target, we aim to take advantage of the benefits this will bring: financial, environmental, and public health. In achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 we aim to empower local business and communities to achieve their own carbon targets and climate initiatives.

Significant progress has been made on the workstreams within our Natural Assets Plan to enhance and protect our natural environment. Whilst legislative changes around Planning, Environment and Housing provision are not yet forthcoming, preparatory work is taking place across the organisation with partners and agencies to achieve a sustainable future for our Place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Receives and notes the annual updates for each plan as outlined in Appendices 1 to 3 and its contribution towards delivering net zero by 2030.

REASONS FOR DECISION

A decision followed to develop both a Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan, with an overarching document with the 'Vision for Our Green Future'.

This overarching document outlines our four main plans for 'Our Green Future' and our aspirations for North East Lincolnshire to be:

- A thriving low carbon economy powered by sustainable energy
- A circular economy, where businesses and residents reject the throw-away society, reducing, re-using and recycling
- A place where residents live in energy efficient, healthy homes and where it is enjoyable, accessible, and affordable for everyone to travel sustainably every day.
- A nature rich place, where wildlife abounds, and everyone has access to clean air and inspiring green and open spaces to protect health and enhance lives.

North East Lincolnshire Council has set out its vision to become Carbon net Zero by 2030, this report and the escalation of the target will ensure that we: -

- Place environmental impact at heart of decision making and procurement.
- Transition our fleet to sustainable fuels.
- Energy Efficient Street Lighting.
- Energy Efficient Public Buildings.
- Encourage staff behaviour change and a green culture.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1.1 On the 12th February 2020, Cabinet approved and adopted North East Lincolnshire Council's Waste Management Strategy. The strategy included a commitment to improve recycling to reach government targets of 55% recycling by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The strategy also sets out the Council's ambition to move towards a circular economy, with increase in re-use, reduction in waste disposal and reduction in waste destined for landfill.

1.2 On the 1st December 2021, Cabinet approved and adopted the following:-

- North East Lincolnshire Council's Carbon Roadmap and action plan;
- North East Lincolnshire Council's Natural Assets Plan.

This included formal adoption of the target for the organisation to become carbon neutral by 2040 and for the borough to become Carbon net zero by 2050.

1.3 All three Cabinet decisions included a request for an annual report on all strategies to be brought back to Cabinet by the then Executive Director

Environment, Economy, and Resources. The appendices to this report provide that update.

- 1.4 The actions within the strategies have been prioritised as short, medium, and long term and as such, some actions will not have commenced by the date of the first annual report.
- 1.5 In December 2022 a Motion was approved by Full Council for a further commitment to reinforce and accelerate the borough's contribution to tackling the effects of climate change by committing to faster progress with a view to achieving a net zero carbon impact by the Council and our assets by 2030.
- 1.6 The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to engage with partners, businesses, and communities in order to achieve net zero carbon, across the borough as proximate as practically possible to the Council's own accelerated 2030 aspiration.
- 1.7 To further facilitate our net zero ambition, it was resolved at Full Council in December 2022 to commit to embark on an ambitious property rationalisation programme which will deliver efficiency savings, reduce the carbon footprint, support new ways of working, drive footfall in Grimsby Town Centre and generate capital receipts which can be applied to support the wider transformation programme.

Waste Management Strategy

- 1.8 The North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) Waste Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2020 and will run from 2020 to 2035 with the aim to rank this Council amongst the best in the country for using our resources sustainably, making changes that support local contractors, manufacturers, retailers and residents to produce less waste and recycle more.
- 1.9 The aspirations in the Strategy are as follows:
 - **Resilient:** We will ensure efficient and reliable collections of waste and recycling from all households, which are responsive to future changes in legislation and local needs.
 - **Customer friendly:** We will provide a waste collection method, which is easy for households to use and encourages residents to recycle more.
 - **Environmentally responsible:** We will ensure our arrangements for collection and disposal of waste are designed and operated in a way that reduce our environmental impact as far as practicable. We will aim to achieve reduction in emissions from disposal, treatment, and transport, but also from the production of the materials long before those materials are discarded as waste via waste reduction.

- **Education focused:** We will help and encourage learning about sustainable waste management by developing stronger relationships with schools and the community.
- **Collaborative:** We will work with neighbouring authorities and our business partners to explore better service delivery and contract management for waste disposal.
- **Responsible commissioners and effective contract managers:** We will maximise the use of and value from our current contract and plan for effective commissioning for the future.

Progress

- 1.10 There has been an overall reduction in domestic waste within the borough since the Waste Management Strategy 2020 was produced. This reduction is in line with the national strategy to minimise household waste and to create a circular economy.
- 1.11 There has also been an increase in recycling rates since the adoption of the 2020 strategy and the implementation of the Council's recycling offer, demonstrating significant progress towards the national recycling target for 2025. This in turn is supported by an overall decrease in the percentage of waste being used by our energy from waste (EfW) plant. We have continued to keep our waste to landfill rates below the 10% national target and for the first time, achieving 4 consecutive months of no waste to landfill at the end of 2022. Our continued work to increase the percentage of waste recycled, converting it to energy when it is not feasible and reducing waste to landfill shows our long-term commitment to achieving a circular economy across the borough.
- 1.12 In our 2020 Waste Management Strategy, it was anticipated that government would introduce legislation to mandate local authorities to provide a food waste collection to residents. The council has therefore introduced a weekly food waste collection pilot scheme in 5 locations. Feedback on the pilot scheme has been positive, with a reduction rate of waste in residual bins of 50 tonnes a month as a result.
- 1.13 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have since announced a delay to mandatory food waste collections until 2025 at the earliest.
- 1.14 A detailed report on progress can be found in the appendix 1 to this report under the header NELC Council Waste Management Strategy Update.

Carbon Roadmap

- 1.15 In 2019 a climate emergency was declared where North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) confirmed its ambition to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, while also bringing new jobs to the local area.
- 1.16 Following the climate emergency declaration, the council, supported by our regeneration partner EQUANS, carried out an in-depth review of current policies, procedures, and activities. The review identified our current carbon impact, the wider emissions in our Borough and set out an approach to identify opportunities to reduce our own carbon emissions as well as contribute to mitigation work and reduction of carbon emissions across North East Lincolnshire.
- 1.17 Our Net Zero Carbon Roadmap outlines the work areas required to reduce carbon emissions from our own activities and areas where we feel we can enable and inspire others to reduce their own carbon emissions. The focus is on the following workstreams:
 1. Low carbon estate (our buildings).
 2. Low carbon fleet (our vehicles).
 3. Low carbon street lighting.
 4. Climate-conscious decision-making.
 5. Climate-conscious purchasing (goods and services).
 6. Climate conscious behaviours (of our staff and those who work for us).

The following 6 additional workstreams drive change and encourage stakeholders:

7. Climate-conscious community: by facilitating and encouraging community engagement and sustainability actions.
8. Low carbon commercial buildings: working as an enabler to ensure sufficient support is in place for businesses to increase sustainability.
9. Low carbon transport: through policy change, network investment and partnership working we want to enable a local transition to more sustainable travel.
10. Low carbon industry: by supporting our partners and industry in achieving industrial decarbonisation, including carbon capture and hydrogen economy.
11. Enable low carbon new homes-through our role as a policy maker and planning authority.
12. Climate-conscious improvements to older homes, by supporting our partners and residents to improve their homes to become more sustainable.

Progress

- 1.18 Progress has been made on each of the six workstreams required to reduce emissions from our own activities. This includes physical improvements to our estate, the trial of electric refuse collection vehicles and mowers and an audit of our street light assets to identify opportunities for LED conversion to those that had not been converted in 2021. Progress has also been made on those workstreams that seek to educate, change behaviours, and support decision making to ensure that climate and environmental impact is considered.
- 1.19 Progress has also been made on the six workstreams that facilitate, encourage, and support others to reduce their carbon emissions. This includes a review of commercial estate with a view to identifying funding opportunities for local businesses and communities following the success of the Smarter Energy Greater Lincolnshire (SEGL) Programme.
- 1.20 A detailed report on progress for each of these workstreams can be found in appendix 2 to this report under the header NELC Carbon Roadmap Update.

Natural Assets Plan

- 1.21 North East Lincolnshire is a place of rich, unique nature and heritage. As the global climate change crisis becomes more real to us, there is a recognition that the pressures that humans are putting on our natural environment exceeds the limits it can cope with. Significant change is required in how we live our lives and manage our business to ensure North East Lincolnshire remains a nature-rich place, where wildlife abounds, and to ensure everyone has access to clean air and inspiring green and open spaces to protect health and enhance lives, with evidence of sustainable ecology, environment, and food systems.
- 1.22 Our Natural Assets Plan sets out the council's aspiration and strategic action plan for the next five years to protect and enhance our natural assets, drive local change, and encourage all stakeholders in the Borough to work together in achieving the government's target of biodiversity net gain, flood prevention, improved air and water quality and increased tree canopy cover.
- 1.23 Improvements to protect and enhance our environment are outlined in the following 8 workstreams:
1. Planning our future land use
 2. Managing our open spaces
 3. Biodiversity and special sites
 4. Trees and woodlands
 5. Water management
 6. Improving air quality
 7. Protecting Health and Wellbeing
 8. Education, involvement, and enjoyment

Progress

- 1.24 Progress has been made on our short to medium term goals for all 8 workstreams. This includes preparatory work and officer training on biodiversity net gain in lieu of the introduction of new legislation. The development of NELC's first Tree Strategy, demonstrating our commitment to managing existing tree stock and increasing our tree canopy cover. Works are complete on Novartis Ings, our second SHIP mitigation site and works have commenced on the delivery of sustainable urban drainage (SUDS) across Grimsby and Immingham.
- 1.25 A detailed report on progress for each of the above workstreams can be found in appendix 3 to this report under the header NELC Natural Assets Plan Update.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 The Environment Act 2021 will place new statutory requirements on local authorities to protect and enhance their local environment. This Roadmap sets out the strategic direction to fulfil these requirements and aligns climate action with our other strategic aims such as our Economic Strategy, our Air Quality Strategy, and our Waste Management Strategy, to ensure consistency across all services.
- 2.2 There is the strategic risk of not meeting our targets, which will be controlled and managed through the corporate risk register.
- 2.3 Our Equalities Impact Assessment has highlighted that we need to ensure that information about climate change and carbon reduction is suitable for a wide range of audiences. We also need to be mindful that climate change is likely to impact unequally across our population. Issues relating to deprivation will be important to consider when assessing adaptations to climate change and introducing lower carbon solutions.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The option to retain the current target of becoming carbon neutral by 2040 has previously been considered, however this would unnecessarily delay improvements to the environment for the benefit of our residents.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The ongoing delivery of each of these strategies will support the council's relationships with individuals, communities and partner organisations and

demonstrate our commitment to work together to meet our shared aims of a sustainable future.

- 4.2 Public consultation on the strategic aims and delivery focus has been completed and return an overwhelming support for local climate and environmental action.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Approval of the strategy supports the council's Financial Strategy by aligning resources to local priorities.
- 5.2 There are no immediate revenue implications for approving this strategy, but implementation will require changes in working practices across the council and financial impact will be considered in detail for each decision taken.
- 5.3 By setting out our strategic aspiration for environmental action, we will enhance our opportunities to secure grant assistance or other external funding to assist with environmental improvements, nature recovery, flood prevention, flood mitigation and biodiversity net gain.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

Our environmental strategies aim to improve the environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Children and young people are especially concerned about our environment and it is essential to engage with them on environmental matters. Our various workstreams will create opportunities to engage with children and young people.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The strategy underpins the council's environmental priorities by:

- Leading North East Lincolnshire towards consuming resources more efficiently, eliminating waste and supporting and developing the green economy and infrastructure
- Working towards a low carbon North East Lincolnshire that is prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of climate change.
- Recognising and realising the economic, social and health benefits of a high-quality environment and protection of nature and wildlife.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The initial proposal for the three strategies and the annual review has been presented to both Economy and Communities Scrutiny Panels.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Whilst there are no immediate revenue implications arising from the approval this strategy, its implementation will potentially have financial impacts. It is anticipated that grant assistance or other external funding will be made available to assist with certain environmental improvements which will minimise the impact on revenue and capital budgets going forward.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications immediately arising, the report being a vehicle to update Cabinet as to progress across various strategies as previously directed.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no HR implications contained within this report.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

The strategy set out in this report will impact on all wards in the Borough.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[NELC Waste Management Strategy](#)

[NELC Net Zero Carbon Roadmap](#)

[NELC Natural Assets Plan](#)

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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COUNCILLOR PHILIP JACKSON

**LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY, NET ZERO, SKILLS
AND HOUSING**

Appendix 1

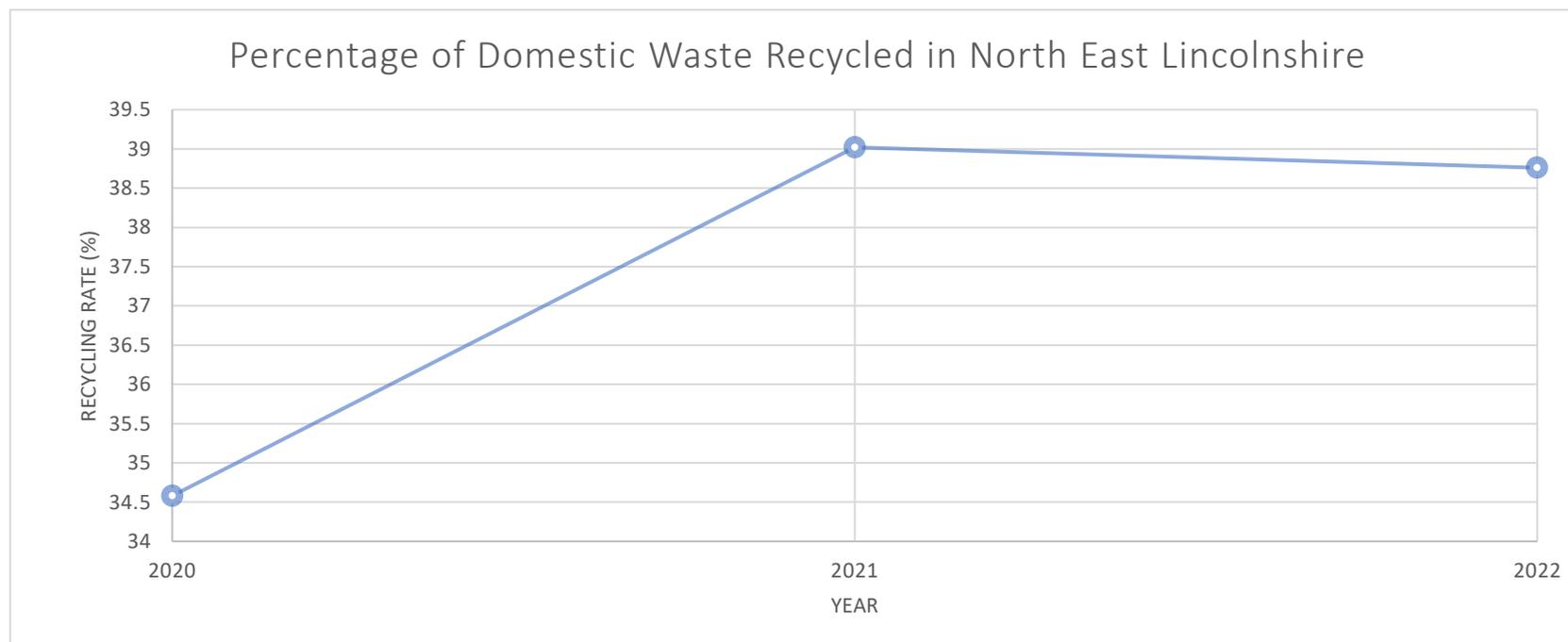
North East Lincolnshire - Council Waste Strategy Update

Domestic Waste

Overall, domestic waste has reduced within the borough since the 2020 waste strategy was published. This continues an ongoing trend observed and reported on in the 2020 waste strategy since 2009/2010. A reduction in waste collected is in line with the national strategy to minimise waste produced by households and create a circular economy in England. With kerbside waste reducing in the borough from 41,382.6 tonnes in 2020 to 36560.6 in 2022, it demonstrates the council's continued commitment to being Environmentally Responsible and helping residents where possible to reduce the waste that they produce. Consistent communications since the publishing of the waste strategy have aimed to help residents reduce their waste and manage it in an environmentally responsible way, and the council is committed to continuing this work. Furthermore, the council has continued to ensure that all of our municipal waste is disposed of and managed within the U.K.

Recycling Rate

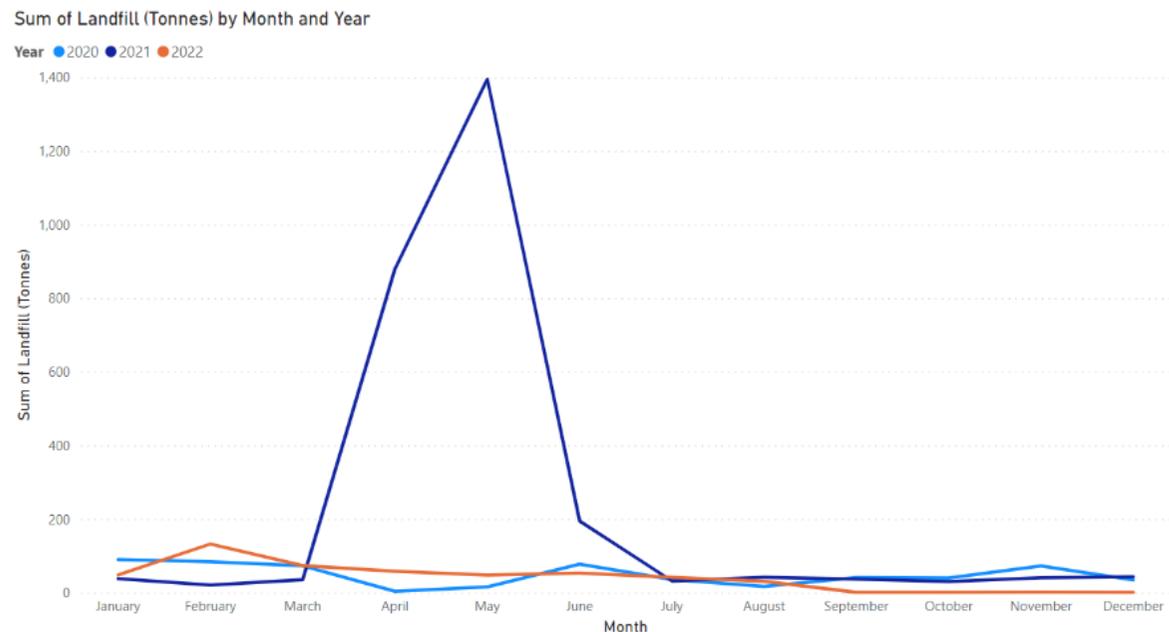
Since the adoption of the Council's waste strategy in 2020, the council has made significant progress towards meeting our key national targets. One of our key national targets is to achieve a recycling rate of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The graph below shows NELC's progress since 2020 in our recycling rate.



Since the adoption of the NELC waste management strategy (2020-2035) and the implementation of the council's 2020 recycling offer, we have seen an increase in recycling rates, initially rising by 4.44% between 2020 and 2021, while only seeing a 0.26% decrease between 2021 and 2022. While we are still some way off our national recycling target for 2025 of 55%, the most recent national statistics for recycling rates in England show an average national rate of 44.0% in 2020. Nationally the recycling rate was down by 1.5% from 2019 to 2020. By comparison NELC's recycling rate has been increasing since 2016, with a massive increase between 2020 and 2021; and while we do not have the national figures for 2021, it demonstrates significant progress in our recycling rate compared to the trends seen in the national picture.

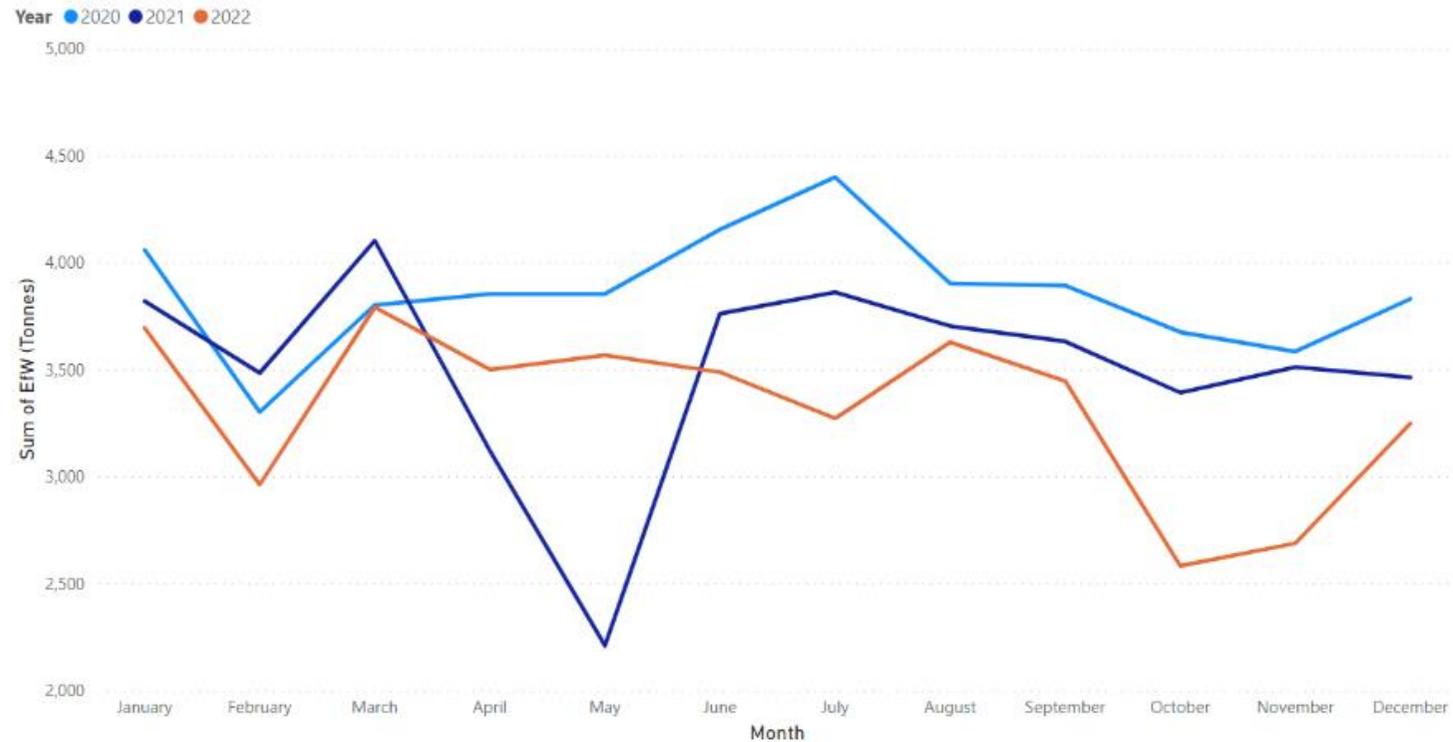
Waste to Landfill

We have continued our work on keeping our waste to landfill rates low. The National target for waste to landfill rates is 10% of all waste produced by 2030. NELC had already achieved this target by the 2020 waste strategy review. We have continued our work to try and minimise the waste we send to landfill and have achieved well below the 10% target for 2030 in each year following the publication of the waste strategy. The increase in waste to landfill observed in the graph below during April and May of 2021 were due to a scheduled energy from waste plant shutdown and work has been ongoing to minimise the impact of this in future. At the end of 2022 NELC achieved 4 consecutive months of no waste to landfill for the first time, showing our continued work and progress to minimise our waste to landfill as much as is feasibly possible. Our continued work on reducing our waste to landfill shows the councils long term commitment to achieving a circular economy within the borough.



Energy from Waste

Sum of EfW (Tonnes) by Month and Year



As we try to move towards a circular economy and increase the percentage of waste that we recycle, we have seen an overall decrease in the percentage of waste that is being used by our Energy from Waste (EfW) plant. Our EfW percentage has decreased from 64.58% in 2020 to 58.37% in 2022, an overall decrease of 6.21%. However, when accounting for our increase in recycling rates, it demonstrates that NELC is continuing a trend towards a circular economy and is committed to ensuring where it is not feasible for us to recycle material that we convert as much of our residual waste as possible to energy, minimising our waste to landfill. It is possible that our EfW rates are likely to decrease further as we move towards meeting the national recycling target by 2035.

Food Waste

In the 2020 Waste Management Strategy, it was anticipated that the UK government would bring in legislation making it mandatory for Local Authorities in England to provide food waste collections to residents. This expectation was based on the 2018 national waste strategy which outlined this ambition for national government. To prepare for this, the council has undertaken a food waste collection pilot at the locations outlined in the table below.

	Location Guide	Ward
Monday	Humberston	New Waltham and Humberston
Tuesday	Campden Crescent	Sydney Sussex
Wednesday	St Michael's Road	Yarborough
Thursday	Talbot Road	Immingham and Haborough
Friday	Augusta Street	Park

The pilot scheme provided residents with a 23 litre outdoor bin, a 5 litre indoor caddy, a supply of caddy liners and an information booklet. The collections have been weekly and thus far we have had positive feedback from the pilot scheme. Since the food waste collections began at the end of March 2021 the trend shows that residual waste in green bins is steadily reducing for those in the pilot, with a reduction of 50 tonnes a month year on year.

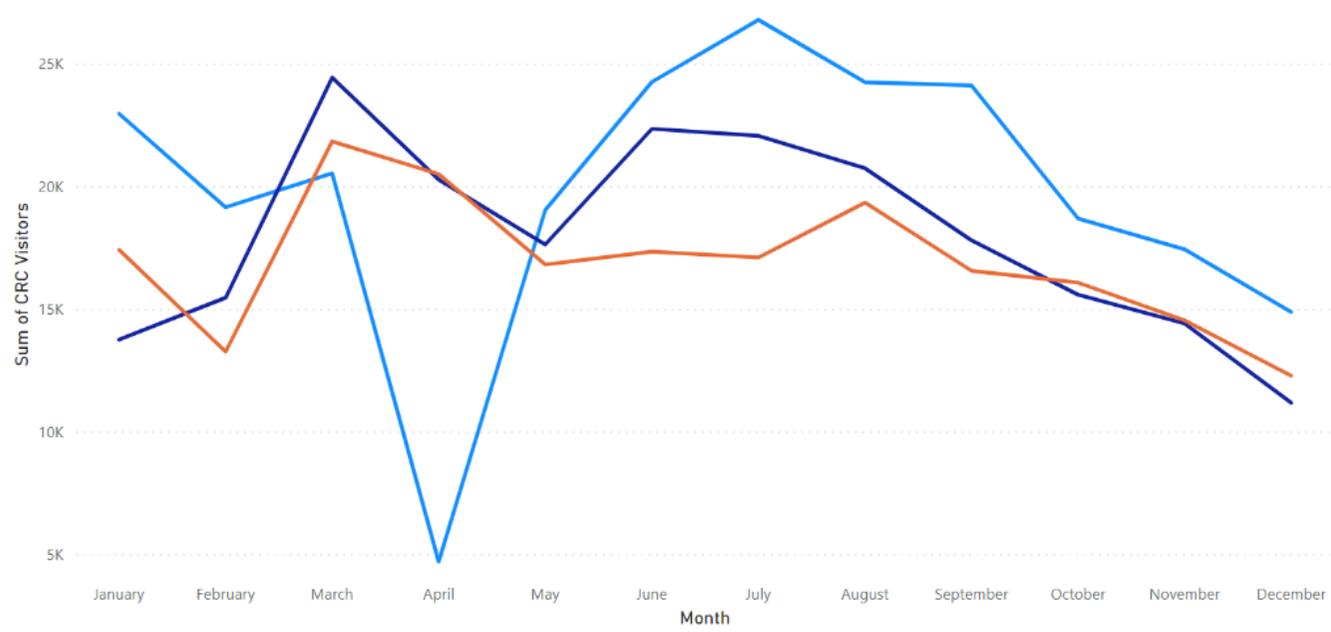
Since the beginning of the food waste Pilot Scheme, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced a delay to mandatory food waste collections to 2025. We are still waiting for more information from DEFRA on when council's will be provided with burdens funding to implement authority wide food waste collections.

Community Recycling Centres (CRCs)

Since 2020, we have seen a decrease in the number of people visiting our Community Recycling Centre sites (as seen in the graph below). This decrease could be due to factors such as a reduction in the overall amount of waste people are producing, as we have observed in our kerbside collection figures, but also due to the impact Covid-19 has had.

Sum of CRC Visitors by Month and Year

Year ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



Appendix 2

North East Lincolnshire Council – Carbon Roadmap

1. Low carbon estate (our buildings)			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, historic energy and water data was gathered for each building and used to calculate our baseline carbon emissions. This baseline was used to determine where we need to focus our efforts. Our buildings were identified as having potential for energy efficiency savings and as well as green power and thermal energy solutions. Our progress to date includes: -</p> <p>Smarter Energy Dashboards have been installed in some of our buildings that staff can access and explore.</p> <p>Energy efficiency improvements have been made to Europarc Innovation Centre and Waltham Library using funds secured through the Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation (Grant) Scheme, the works for which are now complete.</p> <p>The transformation of Doughty Depot includes options for lower carbon technologies.</p>	<p>We have a good understanding of our buildings and their carbon emissions and have several projects already identified. This places us in a really good position for future funding opportunities.</p> <p>The decision to rationalise our estate will enable us to focus on improvements to a smaller number of buildings, reducing the cost measures required.</p>	<p>We do not have the funding to make all of the improvements that we would like to make, grant opportunities are often oversubscribed and future funding regimes are not known. To maximise our opportunities for funding we need to increase our technical skills to specify and procure low carbon technology, to have projects ready for when funding opportunities arise. Historic buildings are unlikely to achieve zero carbon due to construction type and conservation requirements, so we need to identify opportunities in which other buildings can go further to compensate.</p>	<p>Exploring the opportunity to add other buildings into the Team Energy Database to be populated into the Energy Dashboards.</p> <p>Explore ongoing opportunities for carbon reduction initiatives as regeneration projects come to fruition.</p> <p>Initiate a property rationalisation programme.</p> <p>Continue working with BEIS and MACE on OPE Opportunity Development fund project to seek pipeline funding opportunities for low carbon heating on Alexandra Dock, Library and other Town Centre Estate.</p>

2. Low Carbon Fleet (our vehicles)			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, our fleet and recorded business mileage accounted for 28.7% of our total emissions, with 26.6% of our emissions from fleet alone. Since then:</p> <p>We have 31 fully electric vehicles in total.</p> <p>Trials have taken place for Electric Vehicle (EV) refuse collection and electric mowers.</p> <p>The EV charging point plan is complete and submitted for funding from DFT, to deliver 42 new points at 13 locations.</p> <p>Incorporated a change to white diesel fuel which has fewer emissions for the vehicles that are not yet electric.</p>	<p>Progress began on changing to alternative fuelled vehicles prior to the roadmap, therefore there is already confidence in the technology within our workforce. Remodelling the central depot provides opportunities for solar PV vehicle charging bays and there are opportunities available for greater use of pooled vehicles and for bicycle use.</p> <p>Whilst electric vehicles are more expensive to purchase, modelling data provides reassurance that this cost can mostly be offset by future savings on maintenance and fuel.</p>	<p>The challenge of finding suitable and affordable EV alternatives for vehicles over 3.5t due to the lack of availability within the market has the potential to delay the EV rollout across the fleet.</p>	<p>To study feasibility and tender package for installation of solar panels which could power garage vehicle hoists. Also, investigate and evaluate potential electric bicycles for procurement.</p> <p>Implementation of amended fleet capital programme, which will see gradual transition to electric at all end of life fleet purchases. The programme has a target of achieving 60 electric vehicles by 2025 and complete electrification of our fleet by 2030.</p>
3. Low Carbon Street Lighting			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In 2019, electrical consumption from street lighting, seasonal lighting and other electrical supplies and equipment made up 20.8% of our carbon footprint with 40.9% of electricity kWh used. The position in 2021 was that 94% of our street lighting was LED, with the electricity for street lighting coming from a</p>	<p>The switch to LED lighting for most of our street lighting has been successful, with further opportunity to explore whether we can seek external funding to modernise remaining lights to reduce the overall fuel consumption even further.</p>	<p>Challenges experienced when trying to source specialist lighting (i.e heritage lighting), due to market developments. Careful assessments required to ensure we reach the correct balance between dimmed land reduced lighting with public safety priorities.</p>	<p>Assessment on where opportunities exist to dim lights and turn off systems while ensuring no risk to public safety priorities. Continue research on availability and funding opportunities and market developments for specialist lighting, to determine whether overall fuel consumption can be reduced.</p>

renewable source. We have since completed of an audit of street light assets to identify any non-LED lanterns, confirming condition and type of lighting fittings, identifying opportunities for conversion to LED.			
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4. Climate Conscious Decision Making

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>The need to consider the climate and environmental impact of decision making is important however we recognise that it is often difficult to quality and imagine. We need to use the growing expertise amongst staff to support with this process. This includes the creation of a decision-making toolkit to support decision makers.</p> <p>A draft of the decision-making toolkit has been completed is currently being trialled.</p>	<p>By considering environmental impact of all decisions, we can amplify the impact of our green aspirations. By identifying concerns and unintended consequences of some decision we can build in mitigation measures.</p>		<p>Evaluating the experience of using the toolkit for writing reports and making decisions and apply to agree a final approach of the toolkit.</p> <p>Engage with decision makers and support them through training / advice and guidance.</p>

5. Climate Conscious Purchasing (goods and services)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>The need to consider the climate and environmental impact of goods and services we purchase is identified as a key milestone to achieving our net zero targets.</p> <p>Progress on this item is schedule to start in 2023. Foundations have</p>	<p>We can use procurement as a vehicle for our ambitions, as a route to our supply chain. We have procurement networks with whom we can share ideas to help us to develop low carbon procurement strategies.</p>	<p>We need to ensure that the advocacy for low carbon goods supports the fundamental procurement principles of transparency, equality of treatment and proportionality.</p> <p>We need to increase knowledge and understanding of all staff</p>	<p>Implementing the council’s new operating model and beginning to review its success in promoting climate conscious purchasing.</p>

been laid through research and benchmarking.		making procurement decision on how to assess environmental impact of goods and services.	
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6. Climate Conscious Behaviours (to our staff and those that work for us)

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>To help us drive reductions, it was acknowledged that a wide range of actions from many people are required. Improving the workforces understanding of carbon emissions through building management, travel and use of equipment is vital. We have made the following progress with this milestone: -</p> <p>Completed commissioned study into the potential for EV charge points in 16 council car parks.</p> <p>The e-bike loan scheme for employees started and was well received, with 71 participants in the scheme to date.</p>	<p>We can use our work on improving the climate conscious behaviours of employees as a trial to expand out to communities to help reach our wider community workstream of Climate Conscious Communities.</p>	<p>Challenges removing the barriers surrounding cycling to work to allow all employees accessibility to cycling, one of which is insufficient storage options. Improvements to storage and facilities have been included in the depot rationalisation and considered as part of our property rationalisation plans.</p>	<p>Progress has been made in establishing a baseline of environmental behaviours to allow future measurement of success on improving climate conscious behaviours for employees.</p> <p>Roll out a year of employee sessions on information based on skills within council to inform employees why they should change their behaviour and how they might do so, including home energy and wildflowers.</p> <p>Roll out a year of employee advice sessions on a wide range of potential environmental behaviour changes.</p> <p>Review the current cycle to work scheme offered by NELC and look at ways in which this can be improved.</p>

7. Climate Conscious Community and Education, Involvement, Enjoyment

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Community engagement is a key to our success, with some community groups and leaders already providing leadership and taking positive steps to reduce their carbon emissions. We recognise the value</p>	<p>We have supportive local networks and partners. We can use the work we have done within climate conscious behaviours and expand it for the community.</p>	<p>We still need to explore ways in which to measure the effectiveness of community engagement and education as a driver for behaviour change.</p>	<p>To explore the use of environmental education officers to engage with schools and community groups on environmental matters.</p> <p>Through Levelling Up Parks Fund we are working with community groups to construct a</p>

<p>that joint initiatives and community engagement has in climate resilience planning for the area.</p> <p>A communications plan was developed at the beginning of Q1 and this has led to many actions being achieved throughout the year including, June 30 days wild.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made to develop a new interactive storymap 'Life on the Saltmarsh' which aims to raise the awareness of the importance of the saltmarsh and simple steps in which we can ensure it is protected.</p>			<p>community garden, to increase skills of growing health and sustainable food.</p>
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8. Low Carbon Commercial Buildings

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We recognise that there are ways in which we can provide support to businesses and public business owners to reduce their own carbon emissions.</p> <p>Several milestones have been achieved including a review of commercial estate and identifying future funding opportunities to support the local business community achieve net zero, and good progress is being made. Smart Energy North East Lincolnshire (SENEL) has achieved target of 26</p>	<p>Our Smarter Energy Greater Lincolnshire (SEGL) programme provided a 'one stop shop' approach, which was well received, leading to a building of trust. The programme has been extended in a more local format (SENEL), led by E-factor and Grimsby Community Energy, to continue to support SME's on their green journey.</p> <p>We have assessed our commercial properties to see what works needs to be done to</p>	<p>External funding opportunities have short application timescales therefore can prove a challenge for businesses to meet these deadlines, especially if there is uncertainty around the costs and savings. We can explore ways in which we can support and signpost businesses to ensure they know where to access information.</p> <p>Some businesses do not own their premises and need to rely on the owner to make energy improvements.</p>	<p>Continuing work on final evaluation of the SENEL project and assess funding opportunities to inform the future energy support offer for businesses, both locally and across Greater Lincolnshire.</p>

tonnes of carbon savings for small and medium sized enterprises (SME's).	meet improved Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings.		
9. Low Carbon Transport			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Our Local Transport Plan (LTP) contains a series of local transport challenges including “ensuring transport contributes to environmental excellence, improved air quality, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions”. This also includes behavioural change initiatives and events that support cycling, walking and promotes the use of public transport.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made in relation to this milestone and we are ahead of anticipated timescale outlined in the Carbon Roadmap. Progress includes:</p> <p>Capital grant funding through Department for Transport (DfT) to deliver infrastructure improvements to local cycling and walking networks through Active Travel Fund. Additional grant funding secured to deliver a programme of schemes to introduce pedestrian and cycle safety measures.</p> <p>The completion of an Electric Vehicle options appraisal and</p>	<p>There are many funding opportunities available including the government’s Levelling Up Fund (LUF) which provides opportunity to bid for significant amounts of funding for highways and transport projects which could help facilitate major improvements to local transport networks including the delivery of low carbon transport projects.</p>	<p>Delays to the Local Transport Plan (LTP) guidance from the Department of Transport may delay the delivery of NELC’s new LTP strategy. Unfortunately, our initial LEVI bid was unsuccessful however there is a second round of funding available and any feedback from our initial bid can be used to support future bids.</p>	<p>Feedback from OZEV on the LEVI bid will be used to support the development of a second round of LEVI in 2023. Continued delivery of adult cycle training.</p>

<p>carrying out audits for key walking routes through the use of Walking Route Audit Tool (WRAT).</p> <p>Work with schools leading to 4 schools achieving a 'green' level award for their school travel plans initiatives.</p>			
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10. Low Carbon Industry

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Our economic strategy cements our drive for carbon net zero, with one of the four cornerstones being a green economy. This milestone focuses on how we can work with industry to maximising low carbon and healthy initiatives in industry and our place.</p> <p>Progress in this area includes: -</p> <p>Collaboration with utility providers, project leads, and potential investors in low carbon supply potential.</p> <p>The recruitment within economy and growth of an energy focused employee in post.</p>	<p>We already have many low carbon businesses locating to the borough and expansion of the wind industry continues.</p> <p>Plans are in place to develop an Exploratorium in Grimsby Town Centre to visualise the opportunities created by our low carbon industry to young people.</p> <p>The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan is now complete, leaving a legacy of knowledge to support low carbon funding opportunities.</p>	.	<p>Work with industry sector leads to understand the opportunities and challenges facing industry and feed into the Economic Action Plan.</p>

11. Low Carbon New Homes

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have identified the role that we have in promoting the benefits of low carbon features in new homes.</p>	<p>There is a possibility for geothermal heating through a centralised heat network.</p>	<p>The current workstream milestones and actions are heavily focused towards the local plan due to the</p>	<p>Analyse responses to engagement on the Scoping and Issues Paper and begin exploring other parts of the workstream.</p>

<p>We can use our Local Plan and national guidance as a mechanism for this.</p> <p>Finished the draft Scoping and Issues Paper as part of the Local Plan Review, within which carbon reduction was flagged as a key issue.</p>	<p>The Alexandra Dock Road Map sets out our ambition for ultra-low carbon housing in Grimsby Town Centre.</p>	<p>large size of the work, however as work progresses with the local plan we will need to start engaging with other short-term overall outcomes and related projects.</p> <p>Low carbon features for new homes are generally not required by government and both developers and the public see them as risky, expensive, and untried. Some developers are putting in EV charging points, but this is not currently a policy ask.</p>	
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12. Climate Conscious Older Homes

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>In the same way in which we look at our council buildings, we have identified that many homes across the borough would benefit from energy efficiency improvements to become more sustainable.</p> <p>We have Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for 33,000 dwellings and the recommendations for each property, though we a way to go to get the full picture on all 71,000 properties in the borough.</p> <p>Our progress on this milestone includes: -</p> <p>We used our successful Local Authority Delivery (LAD) phase 3</p>	<p>There is now a minimum EPC rating for let properties and social housing landlords now have finance available through social housing decarbonisation fund.</p> <p>We have developed plans for Housing retrofit schemes in some areas of poorest energy performance and are now reviewing national funding options to progress.</p>	<p>We have a high quantity of older, poor quality housing stock owned and/or occupied by lower income households for whom fuel poverty is a reality. Bulk of our E and F rated properties are in private ownership.</p> <p>Homeowners may be reluctant to make investments in energy efficiency and low carbon technology as they won't get the payback.</p> <p>Existing funding opportunities are currently targeted to low-income households.</p>	<p>Carry out a public consultation of the updated Housing Assistance Policy and support Lincolnshire Housing Partnership to submit a bid for Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) funding from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).</p> <p>Review funding opportunities for larger Housing Retrofit scheme focusing on the private rented and owner-occupied sector.</p>

funding to improve energy efficiency of housing.			
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Appendix 3

North East Lincolnshire Council – Natural Assets Plan

1. Planning Our Future Land Use			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We continue to plan for the legislative changes around Planning, Environment and Housing provision, including opportunities to increase biodiversity. Progress has been made in identifying housing development sites that that may be used for biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Developers are starting to present higher quality sustainable drainage designs, which include long term environmental and social factors.</p> <p>Officers are engaged in discussions and attending training events to increase their knowledge and understanding of the legislative changes.</p>	<p>The Local Plan is up for review, which provides an opportunity to update our policies to meet the emerging priorities for carbon reduction and increased environmental protection and enhancement.</p>	<p>We are awaiting delayed secondary legislation on biodiversity net gain to allow us to progress to a detailed planning stage.</p> <p>Whilst progress continues to be made, we're missing the definitive legislative direction for implementation.</p>	<p>Finalise the list of council owned sites that we would wish to consider selling net gain credits on.</p> <p>Continue work across the authority and with our partner agencies to prepare for the implementation of the new legislation.</p> <p>Plan a stakeholder session as an organisation and in conjunction with partner agencies to ensure an understanding of the implications and opportunities the new legislation will bring.</p>
2. Managing Our Open Spaces			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Whilst we have statutory duties in relation to managing some aspects of our open spaces (trees, road verges and parks), there are opportunities for our open spaces</p>	<p>We are increasing our ability to manage the tree stock with more staff, training, and equipment.</p>	<p>The decision to seed verges and allow some areas to regenerate naturally may at times look unmanaged. We need to carefully</p>	<p>Invitation to tender for play equipment and award of contract.</p>

<p>and highways to contribute to nature recovery. Progress to date includes the use of the Natural England Green Infrastructure Mapping Tool to identify areas where there is lower access to quality open space.</p> <p>The update of signage in our destination parks.</p> <p>An ongoing review of play equipment across the borough.</p> <p>We have been awarded grant funding towards a park improvement project as part of the Levelling Up agenda.</p>	<p>The importance of enjoying nature is becoming much more prevalent within people's lives.</p>	<p>assess the balance community perception.</p> <p>We must ensure that the planting of any new trees comes with the resource for long term maintenance, to allow us to grow trees to maturity.</p> <p>And ensure 'right tree, right place' to avoid future losses from tree removal due to safety and insurance risks</p>	<p>To produce a programme of events for the Grounds Force volunteer group delivering management work on our open spaces.</p> <p>Produce and update management plans for our most important open spaces.</p> <p>Be aware of funding opportunities to support our work and bid when the time is right.</p>
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3. Biodiversity and Special Sites

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>As a landowner and a competent authority, we have a duty to uphold the ecological and environmental designations of sites with special designations for nature. We also have a duty to promote, protect and enhance priority habitats, species and secure measurable net gain for biodiversity.</p> <p>The nature of this work is ongoing, however efforts to enhance our environment and engage and empower the community include:</p>	<p>The new legislation provides an opportunity to increase biodiversity across the borough, with developers having to provide a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity, with the net gains being monitored over 30 years.</p>	<p>There is a lot of work required to deliver this change, and the delay in secondary legislation reduces the timescale to prepare, providing an even greater challenge, however officers have been trained and we're working closely with our partners to ensure the best outcome for our borough and Greater Lincolnshire.</p> <p>We're still in negotiation with Natural England on our Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.</p>	<p>Work with partners like Next Door Nature on opportunities for engaging communities in improvements to urban biodiversity.</p> <p>Update our records on Local Wildlife Sites and assess other sites for statutory and non-statutory designations.</p> <p>Plan a session with developers on biodiversity net gain and explore training opportunities for ourselves and others across the organisation.</p> <p>Finalise the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.</p>

<p>The completion of our Novartis Ings site, our second SHIP mitigation site.</p> <p>Management works have been completed commenced on our Dynamics Dunescape Project</p> <p>The creation of an interactive and immersive story map 'Life on the Saltmarsh' outlining the vital role the saltmarsh plays and how to protect it.</p> <p>Preparatory work has commenced on biodiversity net gain, with officers receiving the relevant training ahead of the new legislation being introduced.</p> <p>Assessment of our baseline biodiversity within parks and open spaces</p> <p>The designation of Freshney Parkway as our 5th Local Nature Reserve</p>			<p>Fulfil our role of completing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for our area.</p>
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4. Trees and Woodland

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have a duty to ensure that highways are safe, which includes the inspection of the highway tree stock. We've identified that planting more trees and protecting our existing tree population has many benefits including heat reduction</p>	<p>There is increasing public awareness on the importance of trees for not just carbon goals but also physical and mental health, as well as heat reduction and flooding management.</p>	<p>Challenges with identifying land in which to plant trees.</p> <p>We must also ensure that we get the right trees for the right location, ensuring that maintenance and</p>	<p>Explore woodland funding opportunities in collaboration with partners.</p> <p>Complete the first draft of the Supplementary Planning Guidance document.</p>

<p>through shading, reduce the impact of significant rainfall and carbon sequestration and storage, positively contributing to reaching our carbon net zero ambitions.</p> <p>Our progress to date includes: -</p> <p>Finalising our first tree strategy.</p> <p>The completion of a canopy cover assessment of NEL to highlight areas of opportunity.</p>	<p>By increasing our canopy cover, we can also offset some of our carbon impact, assisting us in reaching our net zero target faster.</p>	<p>management is taken into consideration.</p> <p>And achieve the full potential of the ecological function of trees and woodland by considering ground cover and understory planting in conjunction with increasing canopy cover</p>	
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5. Water Management

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>As a local authority, we manage flood risk in urban areas. Our area is also covered by Humber 2100+ strategy, which covers flood management for the estuary. Efforts to manage and increase our resilience against flooding include: -</p> <p>Using funding from the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Fund to deliver Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) successful across Grimsby and Immingham. Progress is underway on this 6 year project,</p>	<p>The change in the national approach to focus on resilience and management of flooding rather than prevention supplies vast opportunities for water management that previously would not have been favoured.</p>	<p>Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as it could potentially have significant impact on the approval system of new developments.</p>	<p>Complete the review of our Flood Risk Strategy</p> <p>Continue to deliver the retrofit SUD projects, sharing learning from our experiences and continue to look at Natural Flood Management</p> <p>Engage our voluntary organisations and communities in SUDs with a view to involvement in future monitoring and management.</p> <p>Progress the Humberstone Fitties erosion project.</p>

<p>which uses green infrastructure to control flooding.</p> <p>The first draft of the Humberstone Fitties erosion project has been submitted, to try and halt the erosion of the beach and provide each nourishment and improvements to critical habitats.</p>			
6. Improving Air Quality			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Our main duties come under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which includes the monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels and small scale pollution incidents. Efforts to demonstrate how we manage air quality include: - Finalising the air quality strategy.</p> <p>The procurement of maintenance and service contract for Air Quality monitors.</p> <p>Successful communications for Clean Air Day 16th June 2022.</p>	<p>Nature-based solutions, such as planting trees, can be effective in improving air quality and will benefit other workstreams.</p>	<p>Guidance from DEFRA regarding monitoring smaller particulates has been delayed and therefore acquiring new monitoring equipment and reviewing the policy and technical guidance has also been delayed.</p>	<p>Reviewing local air quality data for 2022 and continuing with quarterly ASC meetings.</p> <p>Continue to manage the operation of the AQ monitoring equipment, following a new calibration timetable.</p> <p>Research how we can best display and share air quality information.</p>
7. Protecting Health and Wellbeing			
Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>We have a duty as an authority to protect and enhance the wellbeing of our area and its residents, employees and visitors. We want to promote the health and wellbeing benefits of engaging with our</p>	<p>Department of Transport allowed NELC to keep the remained of the budget from developing the social prescribing bid to deliver adult cycle training schemes and support other cycle events.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, our social prescribing bid was unsuccessful, however we do have funding which will be used to deliver adult cycle training schemes and support for cycle events and activities.</p>	<p>Complete rollout and installation of all smoke free signage in parks.</p> <p>Communicate the outcomes of the Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot funding bid to relevant stakeholders.</p>

<p>natural environment and address inequalities in accessing a good quality environment. Progress towards these outcomes include: -</p> <p>The creation of smoke free signage for children's play parks</p> <p>Supporting the development of active travel in the borough through the Cycle Super Highway project.</p>			<p>Through Levelling Up Parks Fund we are working with community groups to construct a community garden, to increase skills of growing health and sustainable food.</p>
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8. Education, Involvement and Enjoyment

Progress	Opportunities	Challenges	Next Steps
<p>Whilst there is no requirement to educate the community, about environmental matters, but by providing education and engagement can help to bring about behaviour change, and this means that fewer people make mistakes and become the subject of enforcement action.</p> <p>The following outlines the progress to date on this workstream:</p> <p>The Creation of our 'Life on the Saltmarsh', an innovative and interactive Story Map that tells the remarkable story of the saltmarsh, the vital role it plays to protect our wildlife and ways in which we can protect it.</p>	<p>Residents and visitors understand our environmental issues and enjoy nature without causing damage.</p> <p>Our local community act as champions our environment.</p> <p>Cleethorpes to be recognised as an eco-tourism destination with sustainable tourism forming part of the visitor experience.</p>	<p>Whilst we recognise that there are huge opportunities for eco-tourism in Cleethorpes, due to the unique position of the resort as an SSSI, which is part of the Eastern Atlantic Flyway bird migration route, we must be careful that the pressure brought by increasing visitor numbers does not cause disturbance to the birds, as this threatens their survival and the whole population</p>	<p>Liaise with ICT to explore the option of creating a website dedicated to environmental matters where residents can go to find trusted information and support.</p> <p>Finalise the priorities and work programme for the environmental education officers.</p> <p>Complete and test reactions to the Cleethorpes Coast Story Map.</p> <p>Begin to address how to involve the community in the creation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).</p> <p>Engage with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust on the Next Door Nature Programme.</p> <p>Live streaming from the SHIP sites and from a bat roost in an undisclosed location</p>

<p>A communication plan as part of the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan to help manage damage and disturbance of the protected site</p> <p>Met with all relevant internal services to discuss how best to utilise the environmental education resources that we have, resulting in a long-list of ideas for priorities.</p> <p>Addressed a meeting of the Town and Parish Councils Liaison Group on the subject of 'Working Together on the Green Agenda' with some resulting contacts to follow up.</p> <p>Made multiple social media posts during June for 30 days wild.</p> <p>Launched our improved climate change and environment pages on our website.</p> <p>Planned a pilot of new 'storymap' software, which will enable us to combine maps, graphics and videos to better explain in an engaging way the ecological value of our coastline.</p>			
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